

From IEMA Director James K. Joseph

Like any job, my position as IEMA Director and Deputy State Homeland Security Advisor has good days with the occasional not-so-good day mixed in. Mostly good days, such as my recent opportunity to visit Alan B. Shepard Middle School in Deerfield and speak with students about what is being done to keep them and their families safe.

The visit was precipitated by a letter I received earlier this year from Adam Spector, a 7th grade student at the school. While the letter indicated he was researching security in the U.S. and Illinois for a school project, he also expressed a sincere interest in efforts to protect people from terrorism. The letter struck a chord with me, so I contacted school administrators and made arrangements to visit the school to answer Adam's questions in person.



Dir. Joseph with Shepard Middle School teacher Dayna DiVenere and 7th grader Adam Spector.

I was fortunate to be joined by retired Major General Robert G. F. Lee, who shared stories about his service to our country and his home state of Hawaii. The students seemed to genuinely enjoy the experiences and information we were able to share with them, and I left the school feeling invigorated.

Other days can be discouraging, such the day we received FEMA's denial of the state's request for federal assistance to help people, businesses and local governments affected by recent flooding. Knowing that so many people and communities needed this assistance to recover from this disaster, my staff worked tirelessly on the state's comprehensive, 19-page request letter and 11 pages of attachments. At this time, we're still working to see what, if any, options may exist to secure assistance for those affected.

And sometimes, days can be heartbreaking, like our agency's recent loss of Marty Dwyer, IEMA's Exercise Coordinator. Marty played a key role in the state's preparedness and response activities for nearly a decade, and we already miss him greatly. Please keep Marty's family in your thoughts and prayers.

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FEMA Denies State's Request for Flood Assistance

On March 10, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) denied the state's request for federal assistance to help people, businesses and local governments in several Illinois counties recover from record and near-record flooding and severe storms in late December and early January.

In late February, Governor Rauner requested Individual Assistance for people and businesses in Alexander, Christian, Clinton, Douglas, Iroquois, Jersey, Madison, Randolph, Sangamon and St. Clair counties. The Governor also requested Public Assistance for local governments in Alexander, Bureau, Calhoun, Cass, Cumberland, Jackson, Jersey, Madison, Menard, Monroe, Morgan, Moultrie, Pike, Randolph, St. Clair and Vermilion counties.

The state's request for Individual Assistance was based on information gathered by damage assessments conducted in 10 counties in early February by joint teams from IEMA, FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration. The teams identified 684 homes that were damaged, including 10 homes that were destroyed, 131 homes with major damage, and 543 with less severe damage related to the floods and storms.

IEMA and FEMA personnel also met with local government officials in 19 counties in early

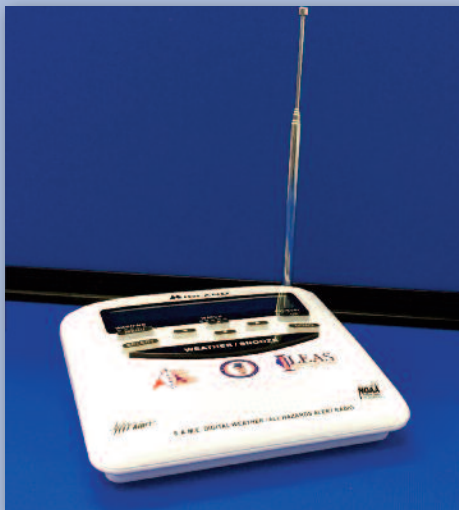
February to document disaster-related expenses and damages, which totaled more than \$15 million.

The state didn't meet FEMA's population-based threshold of \$18.1 million for Public Assistance; however, the request documented several extenuating circumstances that demonstrated the critical need for federal assistance in many communities.

For example, some of the same areas hit by the deadly December storms and floods also were impacted by severe storms and flooding last summer, leaving already cash-strapped local governments struggling once again to scrape together funds to repair roads and other critical infrastructure.

All of the counties included in the state's request for federal assistance to local governments exceeded the required county threshold of \$3.57 per capita, including Calhoun County with more than \$100 per capita and Alexander County with more than \$445 per capita.

The state is reaching out to the impacted counties to determine if there is any additional information that would support an appeal of the denial.



There's still time to participate in the 'Weather Alert Radios Save Lives' contest for a chance to win a weather alert radio. The contest runs through March 31 and is available at www.Ready.Illinois.gov. Participants read a short narrative about weather alert radios and complete a five-question quiz to be entered to win one of the 100 radios to be awarded throughout Illinois. The contest is sponsored by IEMA and the Illinois Emergency Services Management Association.

Aerial Radiation Detection Capability Tested

A valuable tool for mapping radioactive contamination from the air is once again available to the state of Illinois thanks to a partnership between IEMA and the Illinois National Guard (ILNG).

IEMA partnered with the Guard's 5th Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (CST) and the Illinois Army National Guard's (ILARNG) Detachment 1 of B Company, 1-376th Aviation Battalion to successfully test the Aerial Automated Location and Environmental Radiation Telemetry (ALERT) System during the March 2 pre-drill for the upcoming Braidwood Nuclear Power Plant full-scale exercise.

The ALERT System, developed by IEMA staff in 2005, includes radiation detectors, a rate meter and a computer with monitor.

During a nuclear power plant accident or other incident in which a release of radiation is suspected or confirmed, the Aerial ALERT System could provide timely data on the location and levels of radiation. This information would help



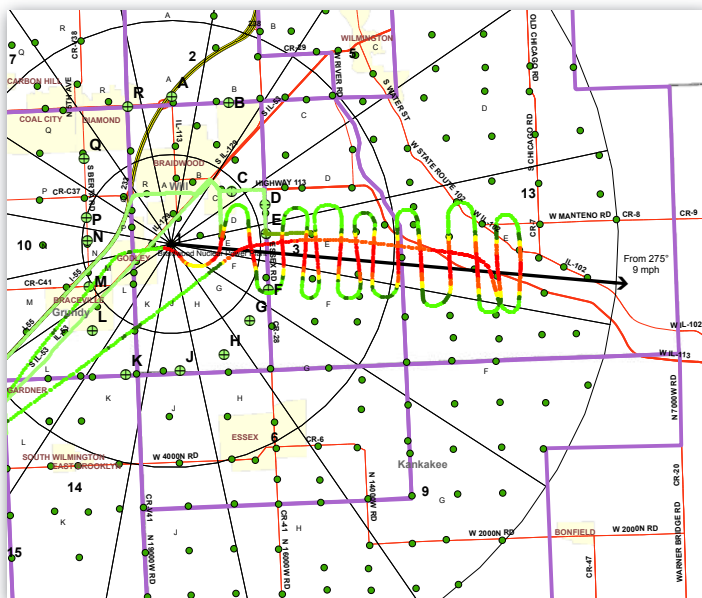
The ALERT System was loaded onto this ILARNG UH-72 Lakota helicopter for the test flyover.

IEMA develop recommendations to protect the public and emergency workers, including members of the agency's Radiological Assessment Field Team (RAFT).

During the March 2 test, IEMA personnel loaded the Aerial ALERT System onto an ILARNG UH-72 Lakota helicopter and provided on-the-spot training to personnel from the 5th CST, who operated the equipment during the flight.

The helicopter flew a serpentine pattern over the simulated radioactive plume and then returned to its landing area, where an antenna was deployed to relay the data back to IEMA's Radiological Emergency Assessment Center (REAC) in Springfield. Analysts in REAC then analyzed the information and developed protective action recommendations.

The test was determined to be successful because it provided the data necessary for timely assessment of a potential release of a radioactive material from a nuclear power station. The test also showed that the Aerial ALERT System can be quickly installed and response personnel can be trained on the spot to adequately operate the system.



This graph illustrates the simulated deposition of radioactive material (in red) as mapped by the ALERT System during the recent test.

Well logging source found; IEMA seeks penalties, costs

One day after IEMA announced it was seeking to impose penalties and fines against a well logging company that lost a radioactive source last fall, the missing device was returned.

In early March, IEMA issued a preliminary order to Wayne County Well Surveys Inc. of Fairfield seeking to impose penalties and recovery agency costs related to the missing radioactive well logging source holder. IEMA is seeking penalties totaling \$25,500 as well as \$52,865.45 to cover the agency's expenses incurred while assisting in an 18-county search in Illinois and Indiana to find the missing source.

The device, which had been missing since October 2015, was returned to the company's facility in Fairfield on March 4 by a local farmer who reportedly found it in his field.

IEMA immediately dispatched a staff member to Fairfield to verify the identity and condition of the device. Photos sent to IEMA radioactive materials licensing staff in Springfield enabled them to confirm the container housing the radioactive device was in good condition and, as such, posed no threat to the public while it was missing.

While the device has been returned, the agency will continue to pursue penalties and cost



IEMA's investigation into the return of this device is ongoing.

recovery. The company can request hearings on both the penalty and cost recovery.

IEMA licenses the company's possession and use of the radioactive source holder, which is part of a larger tool used to assess geological formations in oil and gas, groundwater, mineral and geothermal exploration.

IEMA Training Program Now Paperless

An initiative implemented at the beginning of 2016 is benefiting IEMA and participants in the agency's many training courses. And it's good for the environment as well.

The IEMA training program is no longer providing printed course materials for agency-sponsored courses. This initiative allows IEMA to lessen its carbon footprint and better support the state of Illinois' Go Green initiative while saving taxpayer dollars.

Providing training materials in electronic-only

format allows training staff to make updates as needed and ensures the most current course materials are available to students on their laptop, tablet or phone. It also enables participants to reduce office clutter by storing course materials on a device or thumb drive for quick reference.

A few days prior to an IEMA course, those registered will receive an email with course materials attached. These materials can be saved to a device or printed and brought to the class, should the attendee desire.

Application Process Open for Mitigation Grants

Applications are now being accepted for two federal Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs for Fiscal Year 2016. Grants totaling \$199 million will be awarded nationally for the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program and \$90 million for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program.

The grants provide funding for eligible mitigation activities to strengthen the nation's ability to reduce disaster losses and protect life and property from future disaster damages. The priorities for the FMA program continue to be the acquisition of severe repetitive loss properties. The current top priority for the PDM program is a new category called "Climate Resilient Mitigation Activities," which includes aquifer storage and recovery, floodplain and stream restoration, and flood diversion and storage.

Detailed information about eligibility for the grants is available in the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Unified Guidance at http://public.iema.state.il.us/webdocs/mitigation/mitigationappchecklist/IL_ACQ_application_checklist.pdf.

Grant applications must be submitted to FEMA through the Mitigation eGrants system on the FEMA Grants Portal no later than 3 p.m. on June

1, 2016. In order to submit a grant application, contact Ron Davis at ron.davis@illinois.gov to obtain your eGrants password.

Pre-award costs may be included in your application, but only costs incurred after the official opening of March 15, 2016, are eligible.

More information on the programs:

<http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/114667>

<http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/114663>

FEMA Region V Hazard Mitigation Assistance Specialists will be presenting a Mitigation Application Development webinar on Tuesday, April 12 at 10 a.m. Participants will learn how to apply mitigation concepts and develop an effective scope of work, schedule and budget. Below is information on how to join the webinar.

FEMA Adobe Connect:
<https://fema.connectsolutions.com/mitigationappdev/>

Conference Bridge: 1-800-320-4330

Participant Code: 832971#

IEMA Remembers Marty Dwyer

The IEMA family was saddened by the passing of Exercise Coordinator Marty Dwyer on March 10. Marty led the state's exercise program for nearly 10 years, working closely with federal and state agencies, local jurisdictions, private industry and volunteer organizations throughout Illinois in developing, conducting and evaluating their exercises.

Marty also played a significant role in numerous State Emergency Operations Center activations and Illinois Plan for Radiological Accidents exercises.

Before joining IEMA in 2006, Marty served in the U.S. Army as a military police officer. He also studied for a time to become a Jesuit priest.

Marty will be missed greatly by everyone who had the pleasure of working with him. Please keep Marty's family and friends in your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.



THIRA Gives Insight into State, Community Preparedness

On Dec. 31, IEMA submitted the state's 2015 Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA). THIRA is a four-step risk assessment process that helps the whole community better understand its risks, vulnerabilities, capability requirements and unmet resource needs.

Illinois' THIRA was developed by collecting and analyzing input from more than 30 participating state, county, local, private, non-governmental and voluntary organizations. Completion and submission of the THIRA is a required annual activity in order to receive Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) funding.

Combined with THIRA is the State Preparedness Report (SPR), which allows the state to assess its capability and capacity to deliver on desired outcomes established earlier in the process. Together, THIRA and SPR help communities determine preparedness needs, resource requirements and current capability gaps. Communities can use this information to help efficiently build and sustain resilience and long-term vulnerability reduction.

The Illinois Terrorism Task Force utilizes outputs from THIRA and SPR to make recommendations to IEMA for creation of preparedness projects supported under future HSGP awards.

The following areas for improvement were identified in Planning, Organization, Equipment, Training and Exercise (POETE):

- **Planning:** enhanced coordination of planning efforts, uniformity and consistency throughout all plans and procedures, participation by all organizations and compliance with national standards.
- **Organizational:** integration of public/private sector capabilities, consistent information exchange and uniform priorities.
- **Equipment:** understanding the capability of whole community participants and identification of resource gaps and priorities.
- **Training:** establish comprehensive training directed at plans, procedures and policies, develop curricula on whole community capabilities and processes, and provide up-to-date and applicable training topics/courses of instruction.
- **Exercise:** conduct function-specific exercises, develop focused and measurable exercises, consistently execute after-action briefings and require development, delivery of reports and improvement plans, and increase whole community involvement.



2016 IEMA Training Summit

Vendor registration is now open.
Register now to get early pricing deals on
vendor booths before July 1.

www.Ready.Illinois.gov

Three IEMA Initiatives Considered by Legislature

The Illinois General Assembly is considering the following three initiatives from IEMA during the spring 2016 legislative session:

SB 2757 – Clarification Regarding Biosolids

This bill clarifies that IEMA regulations and oversight shall not be impacted by PA 99-0067, which amended the Environmental Protection Act to provide that, to the extent allowed by federal law, Exceptional Quality Biosolids (EQBs) shall not be subject to regulation as sludge or other waste if they meet specified requirements.

Since EQBs may contain radium, a radioactive material, some EQBs may fall under IEMA's jurisdiction as the regulatory agency for ionizing radiation. This bill would enable IEMA to continue to ensure safety involving sludges containing radium.

HB 6284 - IEMA Summit Fees

This bill would allow IEMA to assess minimal fees to help defray the agency's cost for conducting its annual training summit, which is attended by around 1,000 first responders each year.

Surveys of past summit attendees indicate support for charging a small fee. Participants appreciate the many training and educational

opportunities offered at the event, including required training hours necessary for local jurisdictions and organizations to be eligible for federal grants.

The fees are necessary as costs increase and agency funds decline.

SB 2733 - Repeal of IEMA Nuclear Study Mandate

This bill would repeal a provision in the Nuclear Safety Law of 2004 that requires IEMA to conduct a study regarding the impact and cost of nuclear power and to compare these to the impact and cost of alternative energy sources, the potential effects of all radioactive emissions from nuclear power plants on public health and safety, and all other factors relevant to the use of nuclear power or nuclear safety.

In addition, once the study is completed, IEMA is mandated to formulate a general nuclear policy for the state based on the findings of the study.

IEMA is once again seeking repeal of this act as it has neither the expertise nor the funding source to conduct this study. IEMA is statutorily charged with ensuring the safety of people living and working near nuclear power plants, but does not set Illinois' nuclear policy.



Twenty-five IEMA staff members participated in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and First Aid training on Feb. 29 in Springfield. The agency conducts the training periodically so employees can learn or refresh their skills in these lifesaving techniques. Additional courses are planned for IEMA employees in Springfield and the Chicago area.



State of Illinois
Illinois Emergency Management Agency

For more information on this newsletter, contact:

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